

# EXHIBIT

# 18



The United States Department of Justice  
**Drug Enforcement Administration**



*The Trafficking and Abuse of  
Prescription Controlled Substances,  
Legend Drugs and Over the Counter Products*

Medical Board of California/California State Board of Pharmacy  
Joint Forum to Promote Appropriate Prescribing and Dispensing  
San Francisco, California  
February 21, 2013

OR

- **Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis**

- *“When Two Addictions Collide”*



# Disclosure Information

I have no financial relationships to disclose  
and

I will not discuss off-label use and/or  
investigational drug use in my presentation



# What is the Societal Damage of Prescription Controlled Substance and Legend Drug Abuse?

**In 2010, approximately 38,329 unintentional drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States, one death every 14 minutes.**

**Of this number, 22,134 of these deaths were attributed to Prescription Drugs (16,651 attributed to opioid overdoses/ 75.2 %).**

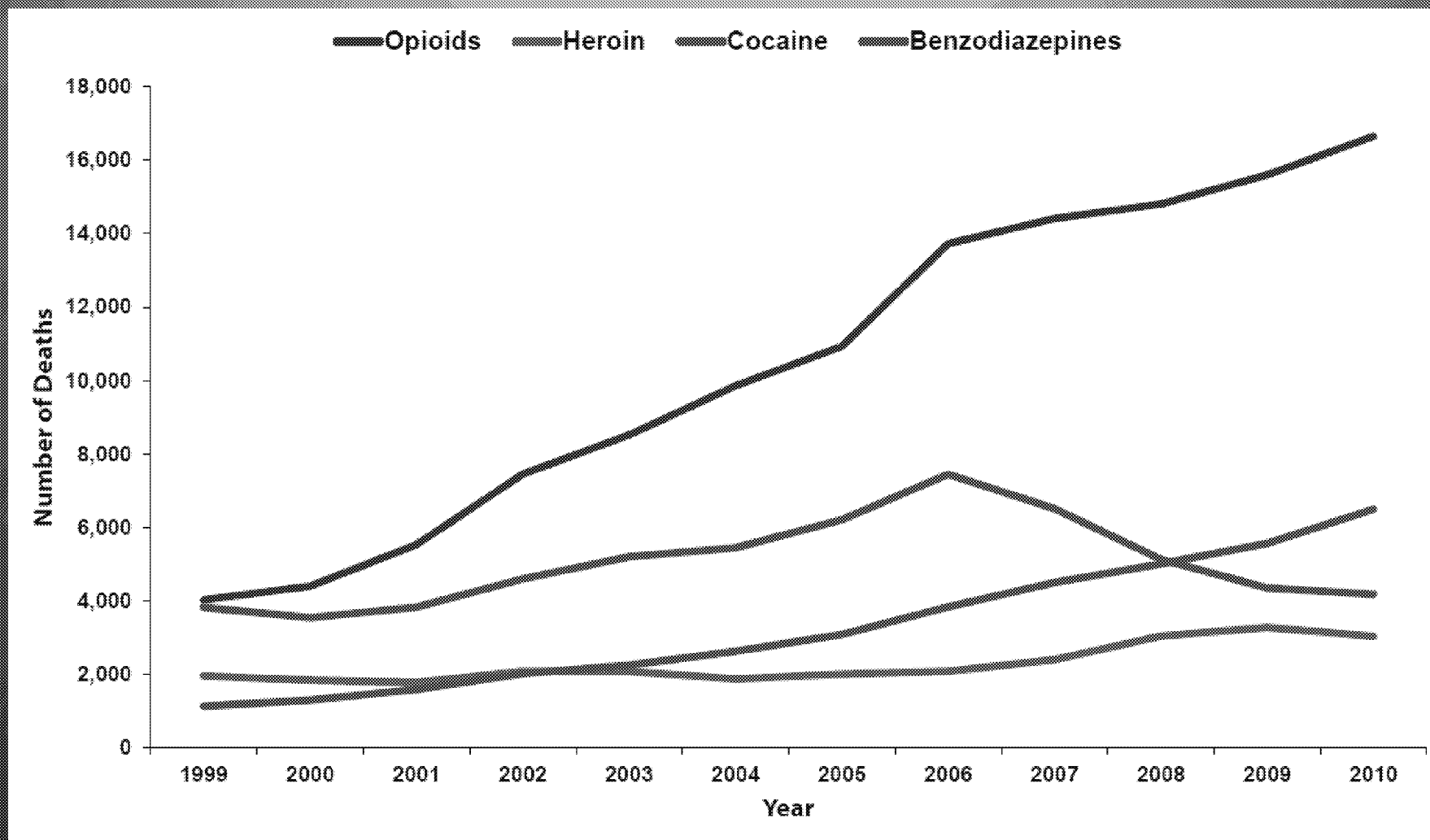
**Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the United States.**

Source: CDC Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 2010 (October 2012)

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration / Operations  
Division / Office of Diversion Control



# Excess Deaths by Major Drug Type, 1999-2010



U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration /  
Operations Division / Office of Diversion  
Control

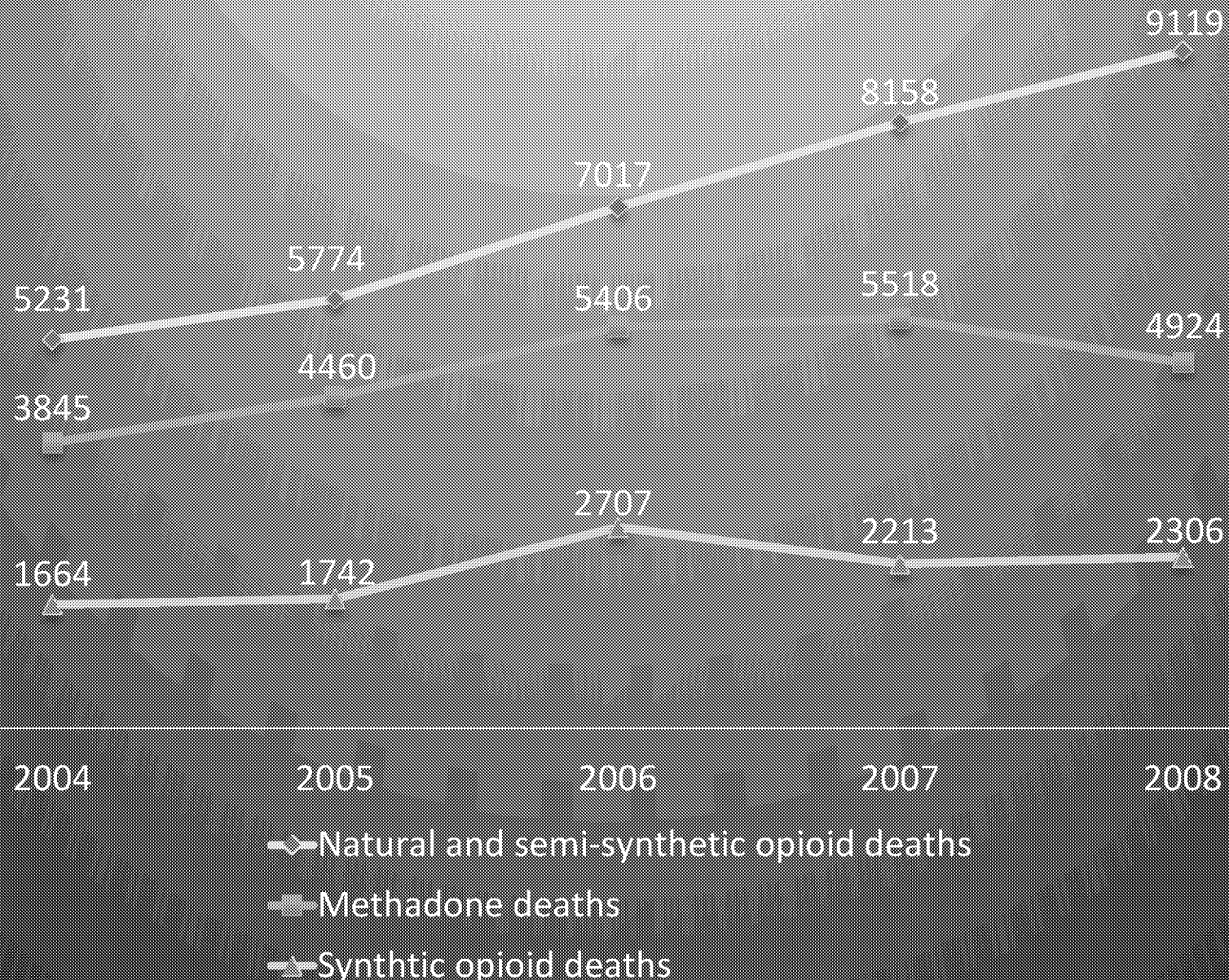
Source: CDC/NCHS, NVSS

CONFIDENTIAL

CAH\_ALASKA\_00036519

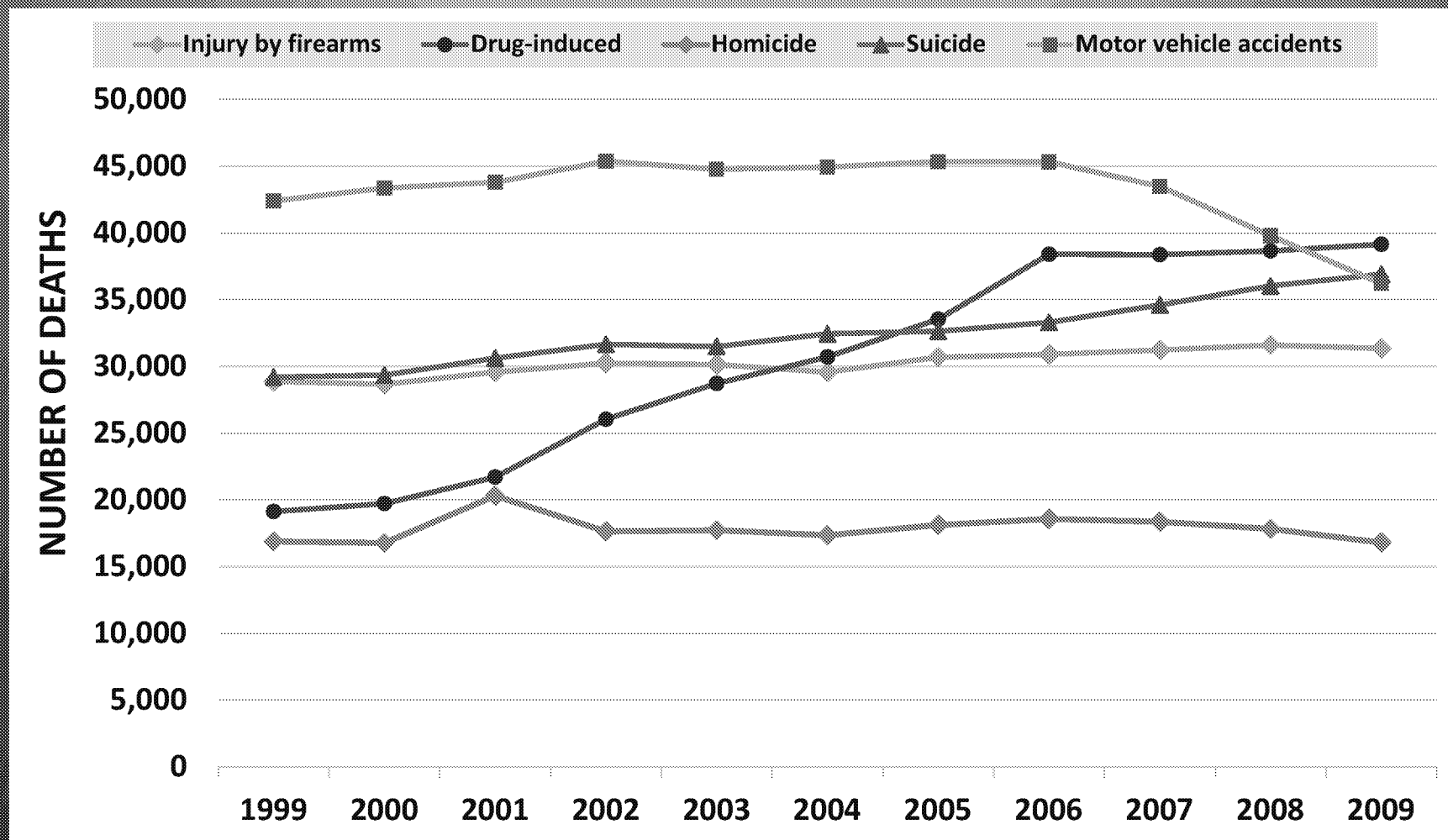


# Opioid analgesic involved in deaths



Source: NCHS Data Brief #81, December 2011

# Drug-Induced Deaths



Causes of death attributable to drugs include accidental or intentional poisonings by drugs and deaths from medical conditions resulting from chronic drug use. Drug-induced causes exclude accidents, homicides, and other causes indirectly related to drug use. Not all injury cause categories are mutually exclusive.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Vital Statistics Reports *Deaths: Final Data* for the years 1999 to 2009 (January 2012).



# 2010 Current Users (Past Month) 2011

ANY ILLICIT DRUG:  
22.6 million

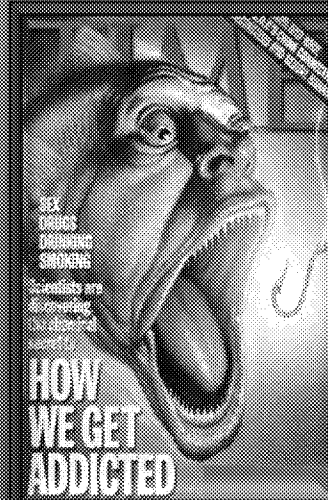
MARIJUANA: 17.4 million

PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC  
DRUGS: 7 million

COCAINE: 1.5 million

Methamphetamine 353,000

Heroin: 239,000



Source: 2010 & 2011 NSDUH

ANY ILLICIT DRUG:  
22.5 million

MARIJUANA: 18.1 million

PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC  
DRUGS: 6.1 million

COCAINE: 1.4 million

Methamphetamine 439,000

Heroin: 281,000

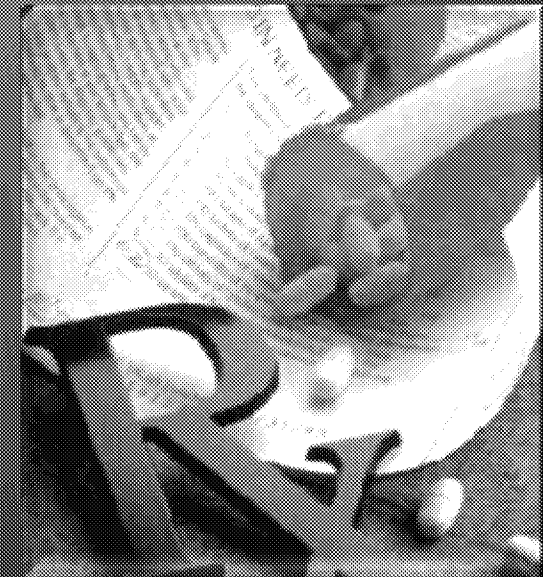


# Prescription Drug Abuse

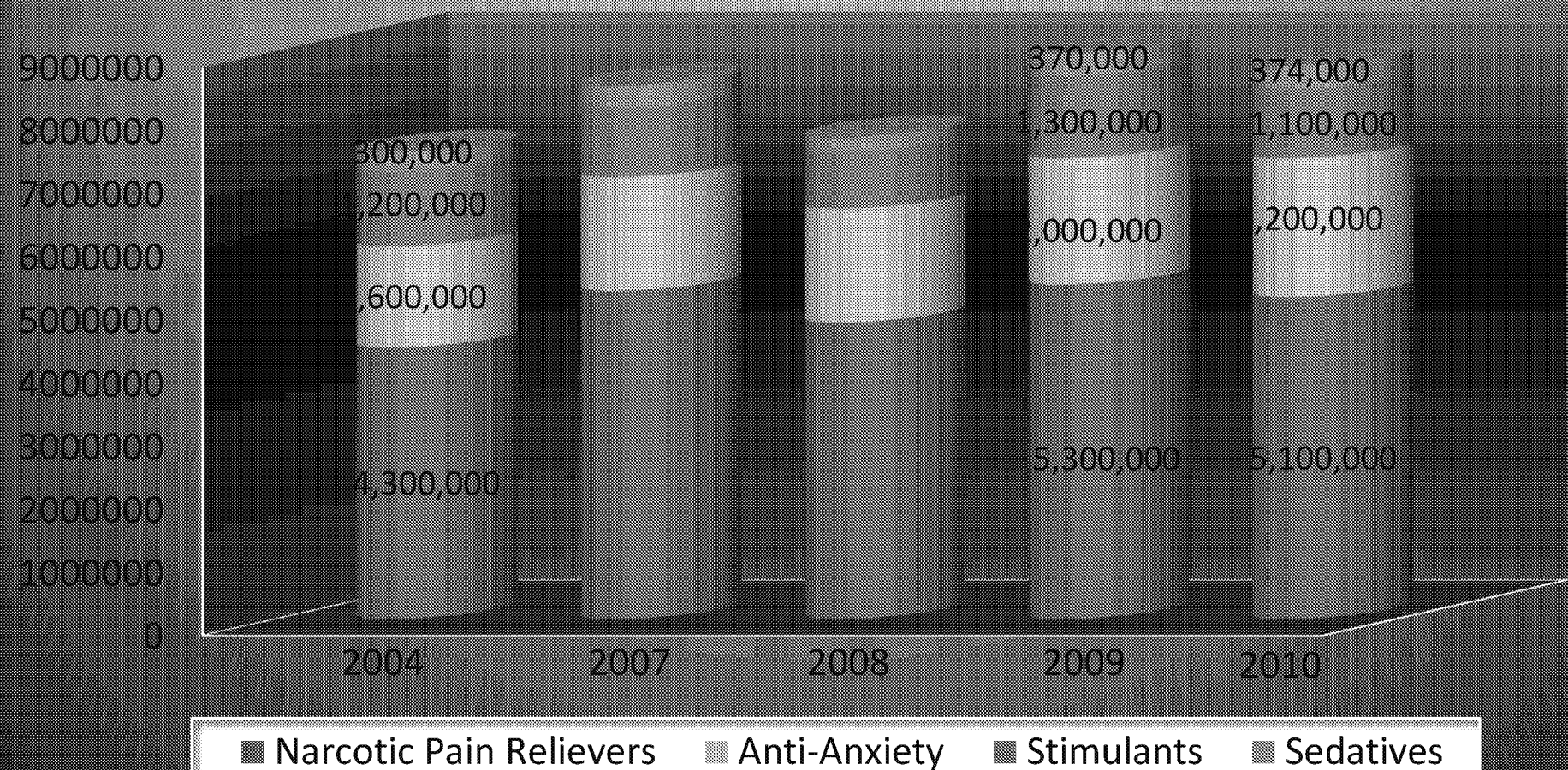
More Americans abuse prescription drugs than the number of:

Cocaine, Hallucinogen, Heroin, and Inhalant abusers

**COMBINED!!!**



## *Scope and Extent of Problem*



Source: 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health



# Economic Impact – The Cascading Effect

2006 estimated cost in the United States from  
nonmedical use of prescription opioids

**\$53.4 BILLION**

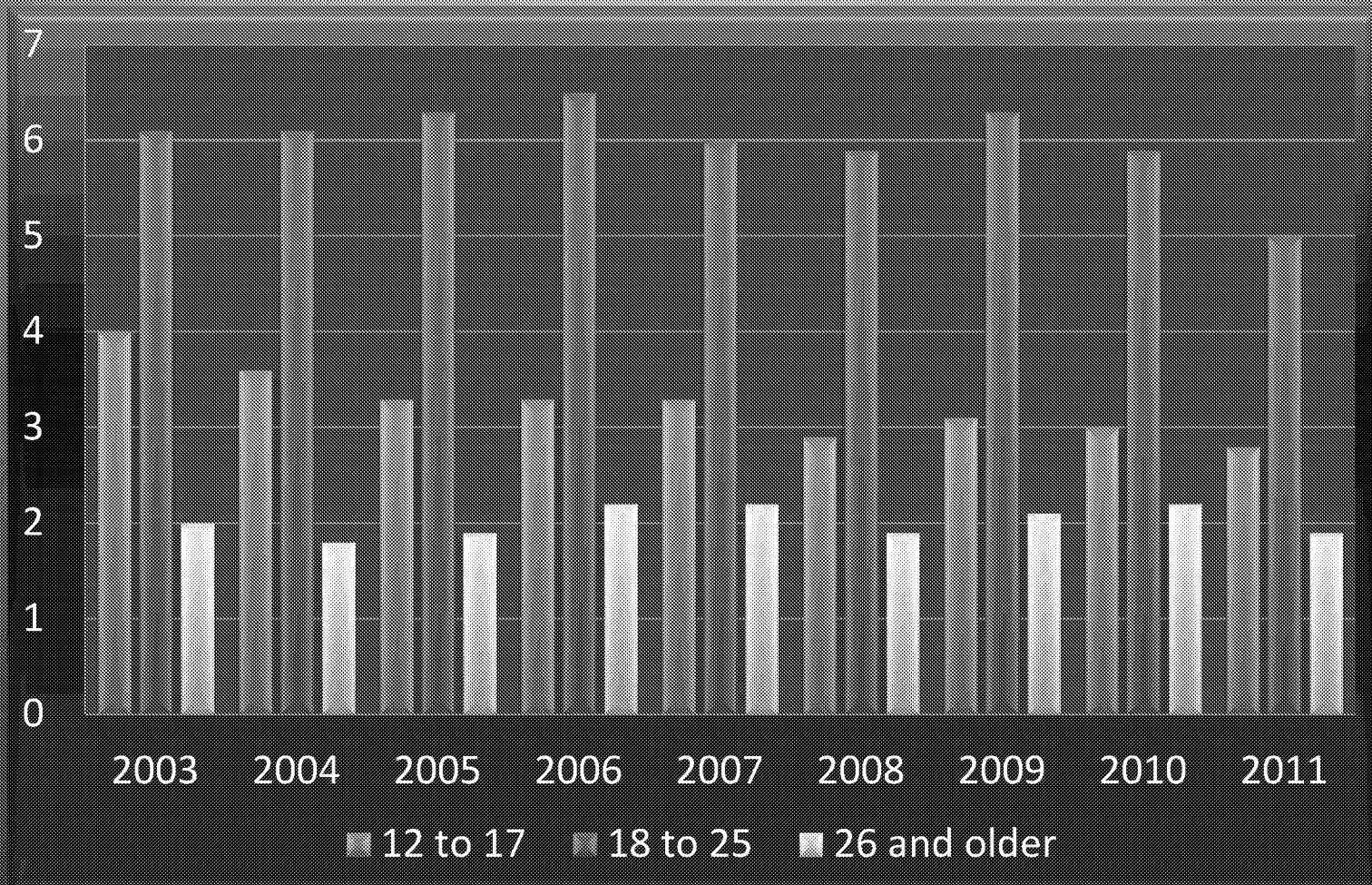
- \$42 billion – Lost productivity
- \$8.2 billion – Criminal Justice costs
- \$2.2 billion – Treatment costs
- \$944 million – Medical complications

Five drugs – OxyContin, oxycodone, hydrocodone,  
propoxyphene, and methadone accounted for two-thirds  
of the economic burden

Source: Clinical Journal of Pain, December 2010, University of Washington, Hansen RN; Oster, G; Edelberg, J; Woody, GE; and Sullivan, SD



# *Percentage of Past Month Nonmedical Use of Psychotherapeutics by Age, 2003-2011*



Source: 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

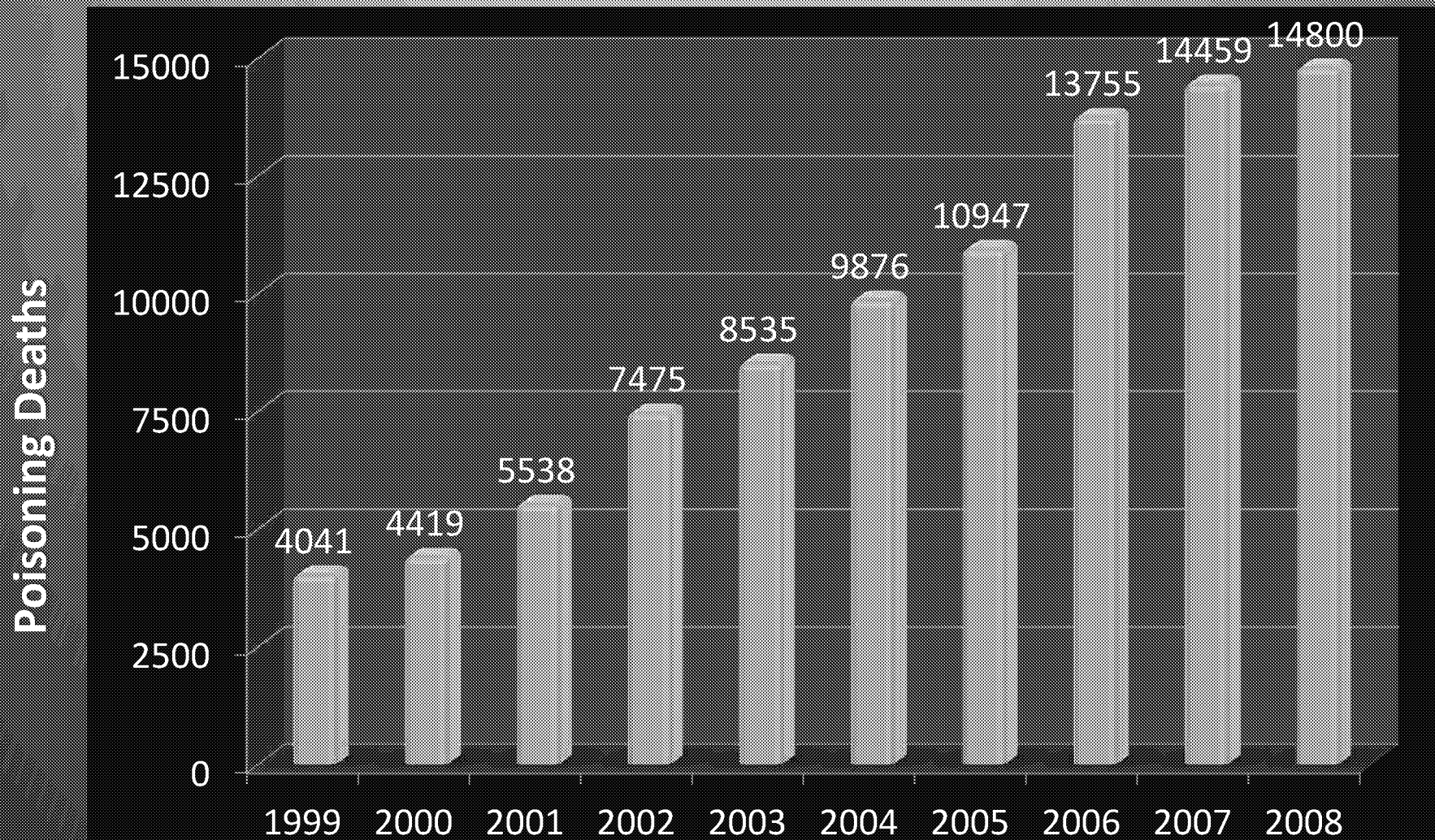
# *Emergency Room Data 2004-2010*

- Increase of 115%: ER visits attributable to pharmaceuticals alone  
(i.e., with no other type of drug or alcohol) (626,472 to 1,345,645)
  - No Significant Change: ER visits attributable to cocaine, heroin, marijuana, or methamphetamine
- Rx Drugs most frequently implicated:
  - **Opiates/Opioids pain relievers**
    - Oxycodone products 255% increase
    - Hydrocodone products 149% increase
- **Emergency room data 2004 - 2009**
  - Fentanyl products 117.5% increase
  - **Insomnia or Anti-Anxiety medications**
    - Zolpidem 154.9% increase
    - Alprazolam 148.3% increase
    - Clonazepam 114.8% increase
  - **Carisoprodol 100.6% increase**
- For patients aged 20 and younger misuse/abuse of pharmaceuticals increased 45.4%
- For patients aged 20 and older the increase was 111%

SOURCE: The DAWN Report, *Highlights of the 2009 Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) Findings on Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits*, December 28, 2010



# Poisoning Deaths: Opioid Analgesics



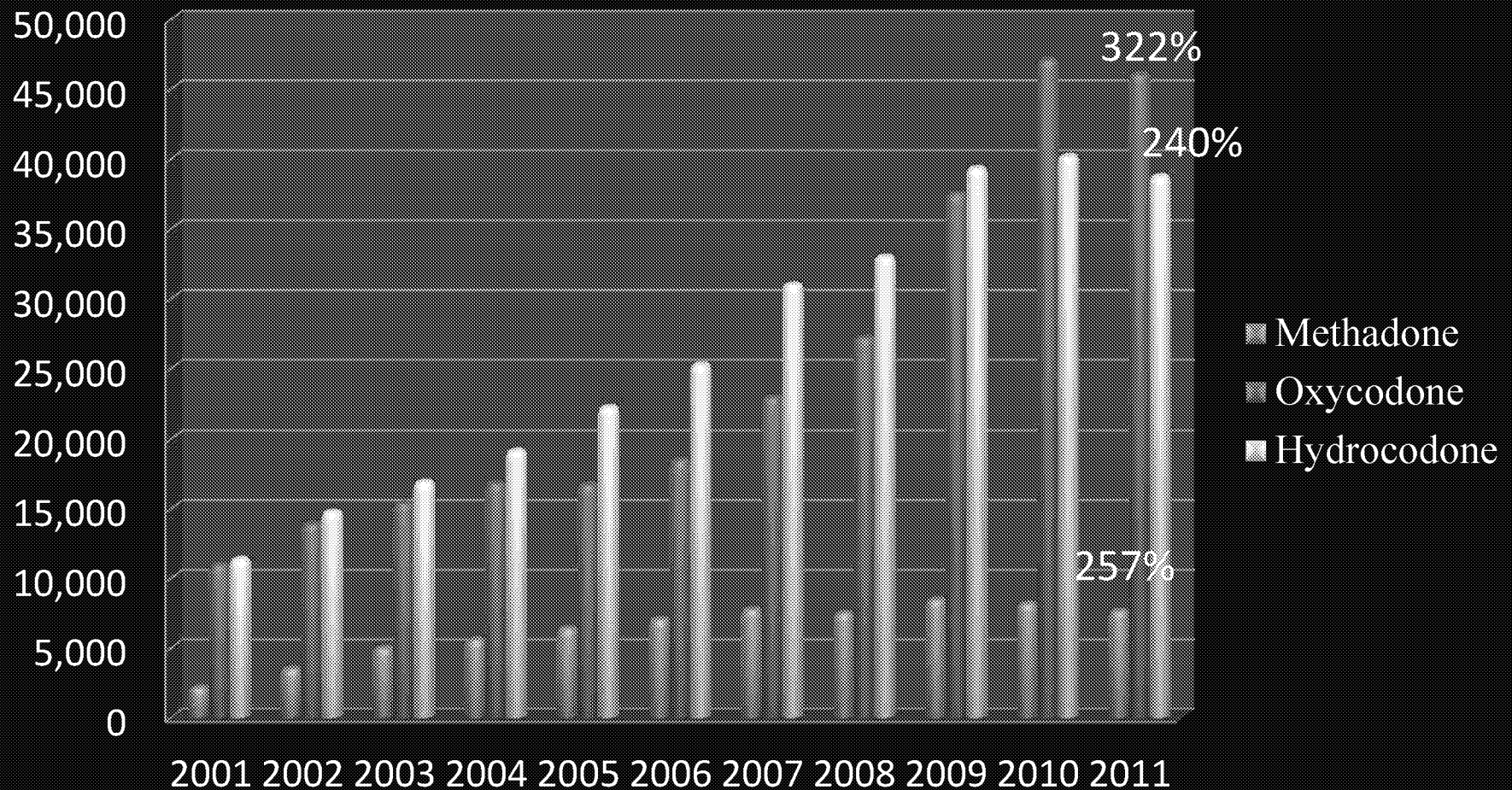
Sources: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System

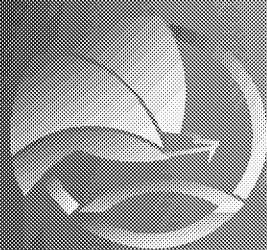


# Number of Forensic Cases 2001-2011

NFLIS

Estimated U.S. Law Enforcement Encounters



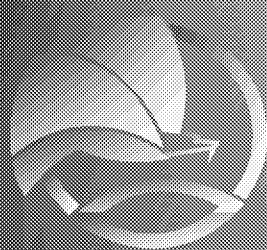


## *Statistical Perspective*

The U.S. Population Grows at a Rate of  
Less Than 1% Per Year!

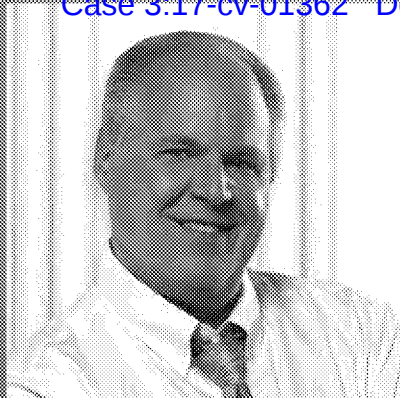
Source: U.S. Census Bureau





*Why is the problem outpacing  
population growth?*

We all want to feel good and  
prescription drug abuse is an  
accepted method of curing  
whatever ails you. After all, it is a  
medicine.



Rush Limbaugh

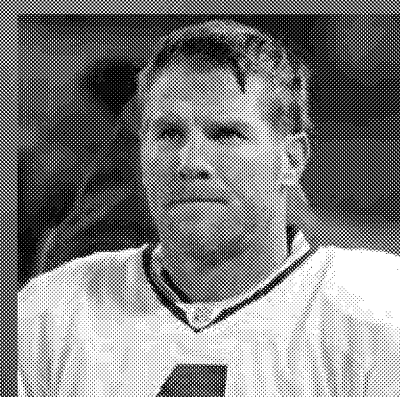


Steven Tyler

# ABUSERS



Eminem



Brett Farve




[Home](#)
[News](#)
[Travel](#)
[Money](#)
[Sports](#)
[Life](#)
[Tech](#)
[Sports](#) [Fantasy](#) [MLB](#) [NFL](#) [NBA](#) [NHL](#) [Coll. Football](#) [Coll. Basketball](#) [Preps](#) [NASCAR](#)

# Wrestler Benoit's doctor gets 10 years in prison

Updated 5/12/2009 2:34 PM | [Comment](#)| [Recommend](#)| [E-mail](#) | [Print](#) |
[Enlarge](#)

WWE via AP

Wrestler Chris Benoit strangled his wife and 7-year-old son, then hung himself in a June 2007 murder-suicide. Benoit's personal doctor Phil Astin was sentenced to 10 years in prison on Tuesday for illegally distributing prescription drugs to patients.

NEWNAN, Ga. (AP) — The personal doctor to a professional wrestler who killed himself, his wife and their 7-year-old son was sentenced to 10 years in prison Tuesday for illegally distributing prescription drugs to patients.

Dr. Phil Astin, 54, had pleaded guilty Jan. 29 to a 175-count federal indictment.

Prosecutors said Astin prescribed painkillers and other drugs to known addicts for years. They said at least two of Astin's patients died because of his lax oversight of what medicines they were taking. However, the indictment was unclear about whether Chris Benoit, a wrestler for Stamford, Conn.-based World Wrestling Entertainment, was one of the two.

"I take full responsibility," Astin told the judge Tuesday. "I am sorry I hurt so many lives. I was thinking that I was looking after my patients."

U.S. District Judge Jack Camp said there was no doubt Astin tried to help hundreds of patients at his western Georgia clinic. But the judge said he could not overlook Astin's misconduct.

"The fact that two people did die outweighs other conditions

that I must consider," Camp said.

A federal investigation found Astin wrote prescriptions without conducting physical exams and sometimes gave patients as many as four simultaneous prescriptions for Percocet. He also prescribed "cocktails" of drugs like Percocet, Oxycontin, Vicodin and Adderall.

"Medical doctors know that after a period of time, if the prescriptions are not working, you get them off," Assistant U.S. Attorney John Horn said during the hearing.

Investigators cited one case in which an unidentified female patient began receiving a combination of drugs that included Xanax from Astin in 2002. She died in June 2007, the same month authorities found Benoit and his family dead in their suburban Atlanta home.

[Share](#)
[Add to Mixx](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Mixx](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[myYahoo](#)
[iGoogle](#)
[More](#)

## Rush Limbaugh Arrested On Drug Charges

Rush Limbaugh and prosecutors in the long-running prescription fraud case against him have reached a deal. Limbaugh, a conservative commentator, is to be dropped without a guilty plea if he continues treatment, his attorney said Friday.

Limbaugh turned himself in to authorities on a warrant filed Friday charging him with fraud to conceal information. Barbara, a spokeswoman for the Palm Beach County Jail. He and his attorney Roy Black left about an hour and fingerprinted and he posted \$3,000 bail, Barbara said.

Prosecutors' three-year investigation of Limbaugh began after he publicly acknowledged being addicted to a rehabilitation program. They accused Limbaugh of "doctor shopping," or illegally deceiving multiple doctors to learn that he received about 2,000 painkillers, prescribed by four doctors in six months, at a pharmacy near his home.

Limbaugh, who pleaded not guilty Friday, has steadfastly denied doctor shopping. Black said the charge will comply with court guidelines.

## Coheed and Cambria Bassist Arrested Before Gig

Originally posted Jul 10th 2011 5:18 PM PDT by TMZ Staff

**Michael Todd**, the bassist for the band **Coheed and Cambria**, was arrested for armed robbery after he allegedly held up a Walgreens by claiming he had a bomb ... and this all went down right before they played a show!

Friday, June 3, 2011

## Michael Baze accidentally overdosed

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- Jockey Michael Baze, who won more than 900 horse races in a nine-year career, died from an accidental overdose of cocaine and prescription pain medicine at Churchill Downs, the coroner's office said Friday.

The 24-year-old Baze was pronounced dead on May 10. His body was found in his vehicle near the stables at the famed Louisville track.

Jefferson County Deputy Coroner Jim Wesley said the cause of death was multiple substance intoxication. Significant amounts of cocaine and the pain medication oxycodone were found in Baze's system, said Wesley, citing toxicology results.

Baze was facing a drug possession charge at the time of his death. The week he died, he was scheduled to appear at a preliminary hearing on a charge of first-degree possession of cocaine. He also was charged with possession of a handgun.

Baze was arrested last November on a warrant to arrest him.

His mother, Teri Gibson, said the death was a tragedy.

"I honestly thought he was not doing anything wrong," she said.

Baze was remembered for his kindness and his love of horses.

Churchill Downs spokesman John P. ... who rode only briefly at Churchill Downs.

Hall of Fame rider Mike Smith ... asleep.

## Jack Camp, Senior Federal Judge, Arrested On Drug, Gun Charges

ATLANTA — A veteran federal judge faces drug and firearms charges after an exotic dancer at an Atlanta strip club told authorities he used cocaine, marijuana and other illegal drugs with her.

Senior U.S. District Judge Jack T. Camp was arrested Friday minutes after he handed an undercover law enforcement agent \$160 for cocaine and Roxycodone, a narcotic pain medication, that he intended to use with the exotic dancer, authorities said in a court document released Monday. They said they also found two firearms in the front seat of his vehicle.

Camp, 67, who has presided over some high-profile cases, was released Monday on a \$50,000 bond. His attorney, William Morrison, said after a brief hearing that the judge intends to plead not guilty. Morrison said Camp would probably take a leave of absence and would not preside over any more cases until the charges are resolved.

## Rangers' Boogaard died of alcohol, oxycodone mix

Updated 5/20/2011 11:09 PM |

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The death of New York Rangers enforcer Derek Boogaard was an accident, due to a toxic mix of alcohol and the powerful painkiller oxycodone.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner announced Boogaard's cause of death Friday, saying it was unclear exactly when the 28-year-old died. Boogaard was found dead in his Minneapolis apartment last month after he sustained a concussion.

his passion for the game, his teammates, and his community work was unstoppable."

Experts say mixing alcohol and medicines can cause dangerous reactions. Drinking alcohol while taking strong painkillers like oxycodone can result in breathing problems and increase the risk of an overdose, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The family thanked the Rangers, Minnesota Wild, the NHL and the NHLPA for "supporting Derek's continued efforts in his battle."

"Regardless of the cause, Derek's passing is a tragedy," NHL spokesman Frank Brown said in an email. The Rangers and Wild had no comment.

Boogaard's agent, Ron Salcer, said it has been a difficult time for the family.

## Thomas Kinkadee cause of death: alcohol, Valium

By Ann Olenburg, USA TODAY

Updated 2012-05-08 7:18

An autopsy has concluded that Thomas Kinkadee's death was caused by an accidental overdose.

NBC Bay Area News reported late Monday that the Santa Clara County medical examiner's autopsy is complete and reveals that Kinkadee died April 6 at his California home from a combination of alcohol and prescription drugs. He was 54.

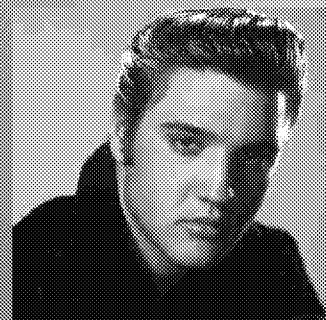


By George F. Mobley, AP





**Marilyn Monroe**  
August 5, 1962



**Elvis Presley**  
August 16, 1977



**Gerald Levert**  
November 10, 2006



**Anna Nicole  
Smith**  
February 8, 2007



**Heath Ledger**  
January 22, 2008

# DEATHS



**Michael Jackson**  
June 25, 2009



**Luna Vachon**  
August 27, 2010



**Michael Baze**  
May 10, 2011

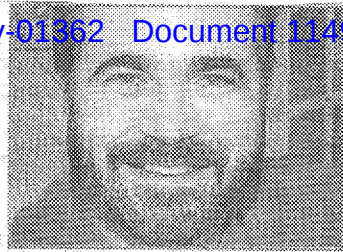


**Whitney Houston**  
February 11, 2012



**Thomas Kinkadee**  
April 6, 2012





Billy Mays, the late pitchman

## Autopsy: Cocaine had role in his death

Hillsborough County spokeswoman Lori Hudson said nothing in the toxicology report indicated the frequency of Mays' cocaine use. Cocaine can raise arterial blood pressure, directly cause thickening of the left wall of the ventricle and accelerate the formation of atherosclerosis in the coronary arteries, the release said.

The toxicology tests also showed therapeutic amounts of painkillers hydrocodone, oxycodone and tramadol, and anti-anxiety drugs alprazolam and diazepam. Mays had suffered hip problems and was scheduled for hip-replacement surgery the day after he was found dead.

condo June 28.

Mays, 50, was a pop-culture fixture with his energetic commercials pitching gadgets and cleaning products like Orange Glo and OxiClean.

Heart disease was the primary cause of death, and a report released Friday by the medical examiner listed cocaine as a "contributory cause of death." The office said Mays last used cocaine in the few days before his death but was not under the influence of the drug when he died.

NEWSDAY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2015

COVERY Characters, Entertainment



## Westchase teachers learn a lesson: Say 'no' to mints in pill bottles



### One of the mint-filled pill bottles distributed to some fourth graders at Westchase Elementary.

By JOSÉ PATIÑO GIRONA | The Tampa Tribune

Published: February 8, 2010

What two fourth-grade teachers at Westchase Elementary School apparently thought was a creative way to calm students about to take the FCAT made at least one caregiver fear the teachers were sending a different message — that taking drugs while under stress is OK.

Sandy Young walked into her grandson's fourth-grade classroom last Thursday and saw pill bottles on each students' desk. Her mind raced with questions and thoughts of disbelief.

Young said she immediately questioned Westchase Elementary fourth-grade teacher Beth Watson about the pill bottles, which were filled with pieces of small mint candy.

"She said it was nothing but some mints; it was just something special for the kids, for the FCAT to mellow them out," Young said.

Young said she was shocked and speechless and walked out of the room when Watson started the students on a math assignment.

Young said the pill bottles go against the lessons of teaching children to say no to drugs.

"We turn around and we have our teachers giving them drugs," said Young, 60, of Tampa. "I don't care if it's mints or not. ... If it's in a prescription bottle, it's a drug."

Young said the bottle reads in part, "Watson's Whiz Kid Pharmacy. Take 1 tablet by mouth EVERY 5 MINUTES to cure FCAT jitters. Repeated use may cause craft to spontaneously ooze from pores. No refills. Ms. (Deborah) Falcon's authorization required."

The school received one complaint since pill bottles were distributed on Thursday, said Linda Cobbe, a school district spokeswoman. It's believed only two fourth-grade teachers at the school distributed the pill bottles.

The principal met with the students on Monday to confirm the pill bottles contained mints that were safe to eat. The students were asked to dump the mints in a separate container and the pill bottles were thrown away, Cobbe said.

She said the bottle idea was tied to the children's book the students recently read, "George's Marvelous Medicine," about a boy who concocts potions to try to change the disposition of his cranky grandmother.

The teachers were just trying to use a creative way to get across to the students not to be stressed with the FCAT writing examination that will be administered to fourth-, eighth- and 10th-graders beginning today, Cobbe said.

"Elementary teachers do creative things to make learning fun," Cobbe said.

The teachers won't be disciplined, and it wasn't their intention to promote drug use, Cobbe said.

"I know that is not the intent of the teachers," Cobbe said. "That is not the outcome they would wish for."

Young said her grandson has been at Westchase Elementary for a year, and she hasn't had any complaints. But this experience has soured her.

It concerns her that now someone might hand her grandson a pill bottle with drugs and he might think it's OK to consume its contents.

"We as parents and grandparents have to drill it into them that this is unacceptable and hope and pray that they don't accept drugs from someone else," Young said.



# Violence



# Pharmacy Armed Robberies

## Rankings by State

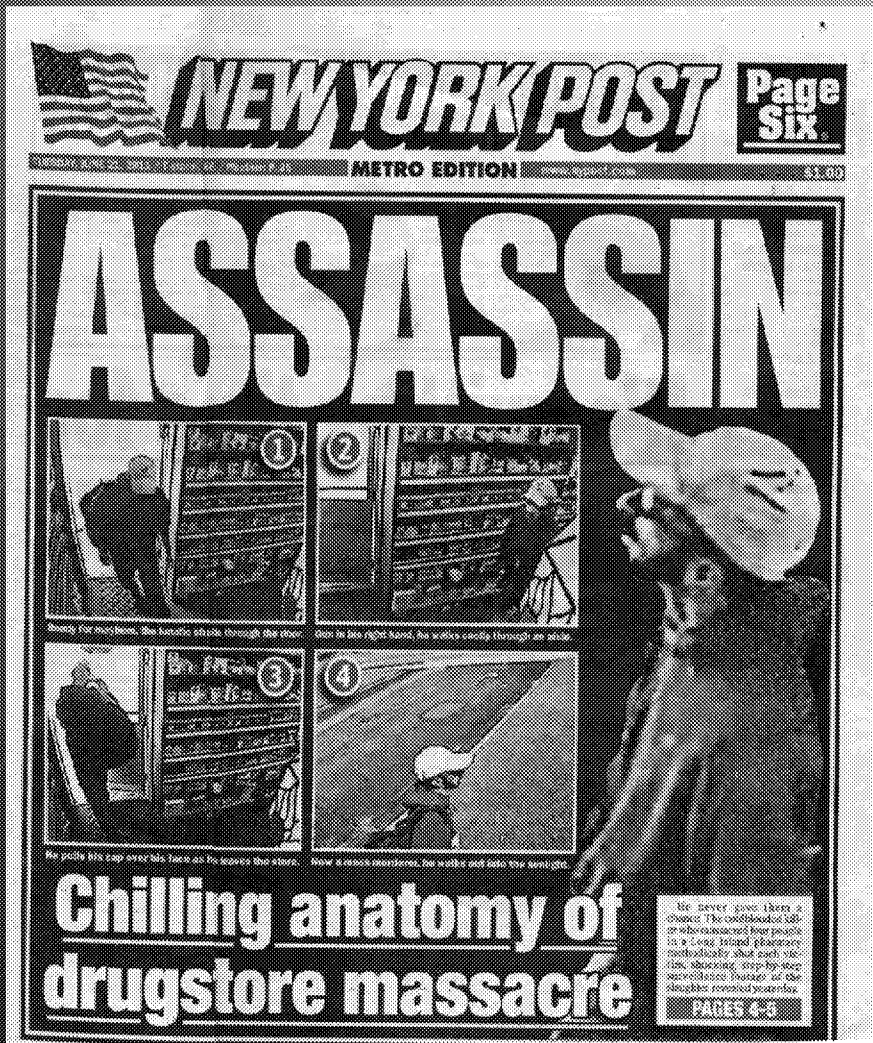
January 1 thru December 31, 2011 (701)

Rank	State	Total	Rank	State	Total	Rank	State	Total	Rank	State	Total	Rank	State	Total
1	IN	53	12	MD	22	23	AL	12	34	LA	4	45	SD	1
2	AZ	51	13	WA	21	24	TX	11	35	DE	3	46	WY	1
3	FL	49	14	OK	19	25	IL	8	36	CT	2	47	AK	0
4	TN	43	15	NV	19	26	MS	8	37	IA	2	48	HI	0
5	CO	39	16	ME	17	27	MIN	7	38	WV	2	49	ND	0
6	CA	39	17	OH	17	28	MO	7	39	MT	2	50	VT	0
7	PA	37	18	OR	15	29	NH	7	40	ID	1			
8	NY	29	19	SC	15	30	WI	6	41	KS	1			
9	KY	28	20	NJ	14	31	AR	5	42	NE	1			
10	MI	24	21	VA	13	32	GA	5	43	NM	1			
11	NC	23	22	MA	12	33	UT	4	44	RI	1			

Source: DEA Drug Theft & Loss Database as of January 9, 2013



# Violence Related to Controlled Substance Pharmaceuticals





## Couple pleads guilty in pharmacy murders

### Eyewitness News

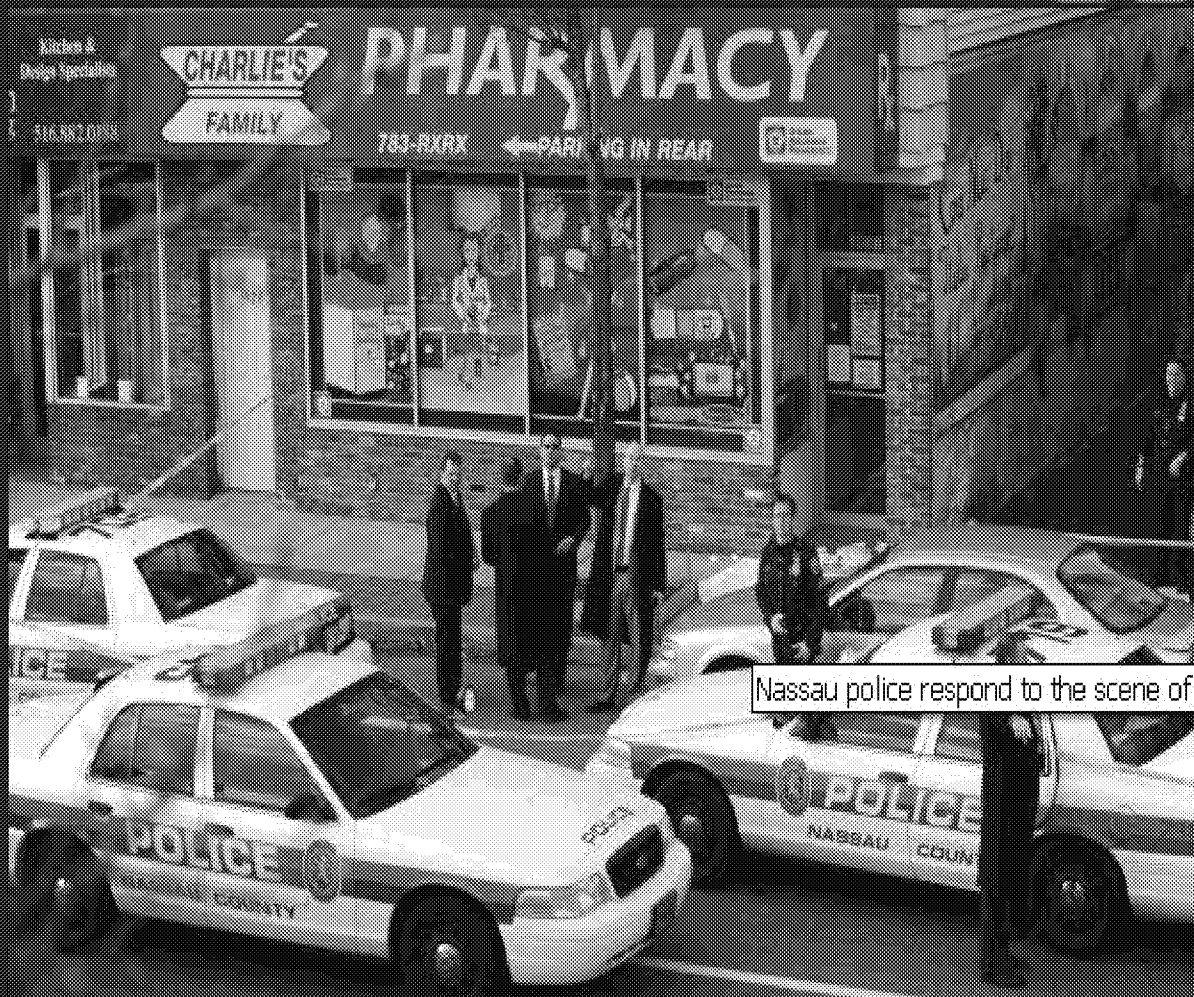
MEDFORD (WABC) -- The suspect in the Father's Day massacre at a Long Island pharmacy pleaded guilty to murder charges Thursday. David Laffer has officially withdrawn his not guilty pleas to charges of first-degree murder and criminal use of a firearm and waived his right to appeal. Laffer killed four people at Haven Drugs in Medford before robbing the place of 10,000 hydrocodone pills.

Laffer's wife, Melinda Brady, also pleaded guilty to robbery charges. The judge announced his intention to sentence Laffer to the maximum of four life sentences with no parole, to be served consecutively, and Brady to 21 to 25 years in state prison. Formal sentencing for both husband and wife is scheduled for October 17.

Laffer and Brady were arrested June 22 in their suburban home a mile and a half from Haven Drugs, where authorities say he opened fire on the victims before jamming the backpack full of prescription painkillers.



23 of 34



Nassau police respond to the scene of a

Nassau police respond to the scene of a shooting Saturday at Charlie's Family Pharmacy, 3931 Merrick Rd., in Seaford. (Dec. 31, 2011) Photo Credit Kevin P. Coughlin



Long Island

## Robbery suspect, federal agent killed in Seaford

A robbery suspect and a federal agent who had dropped by to pick up a prescription for his ailing father both died of gunshot wounds Dec. 31, 2011, after police struggled with the suspect in the doorway of a Seaford pharmacy.

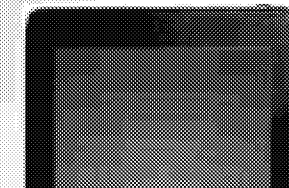
Be the first to rate: ★★★★★ [Click to rate](#)

### Related



Nassau  
Cops: Fatal shooting at  
Seaford drugstore

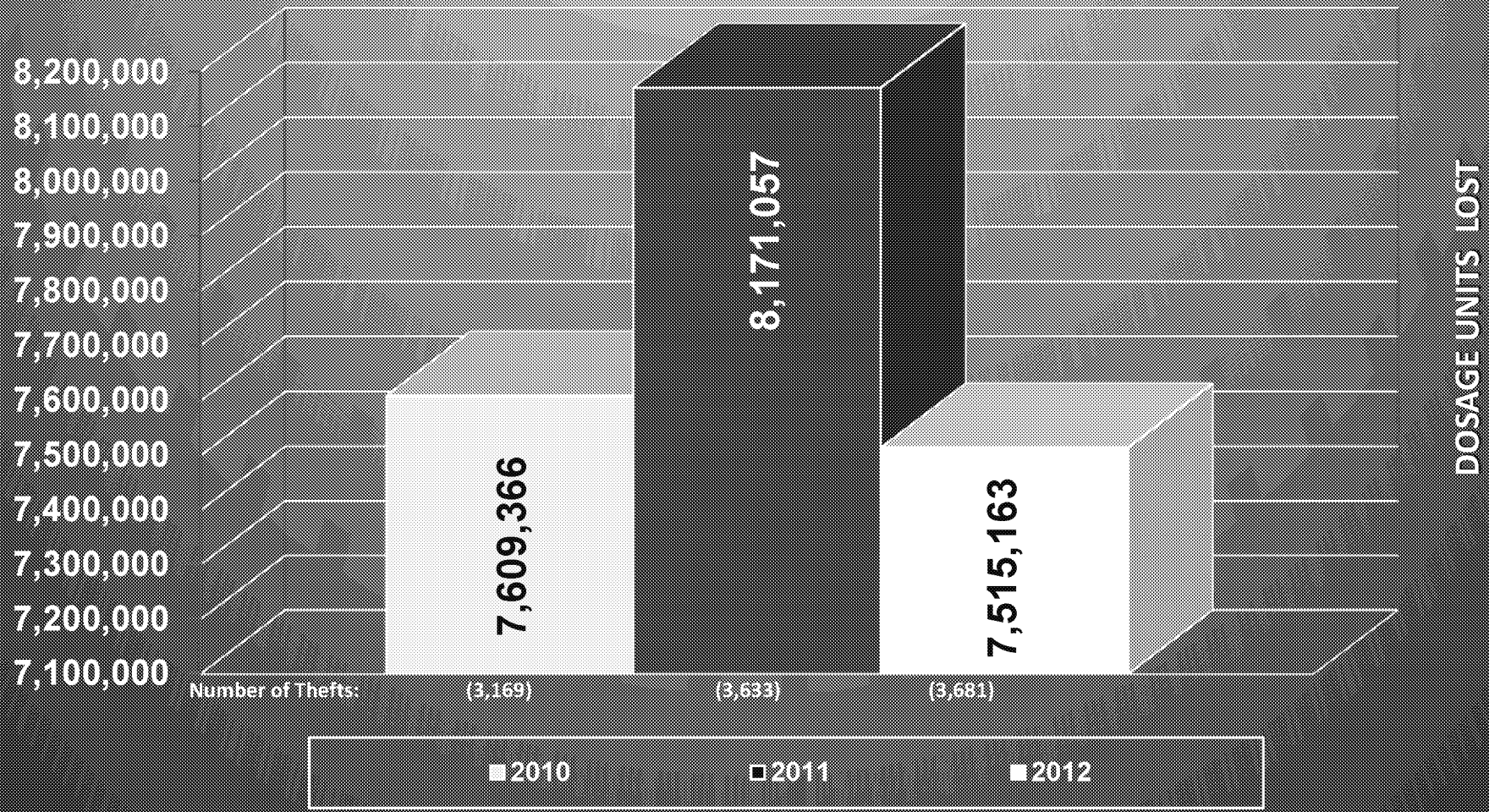
# Newsday



GO  
MOBILE!

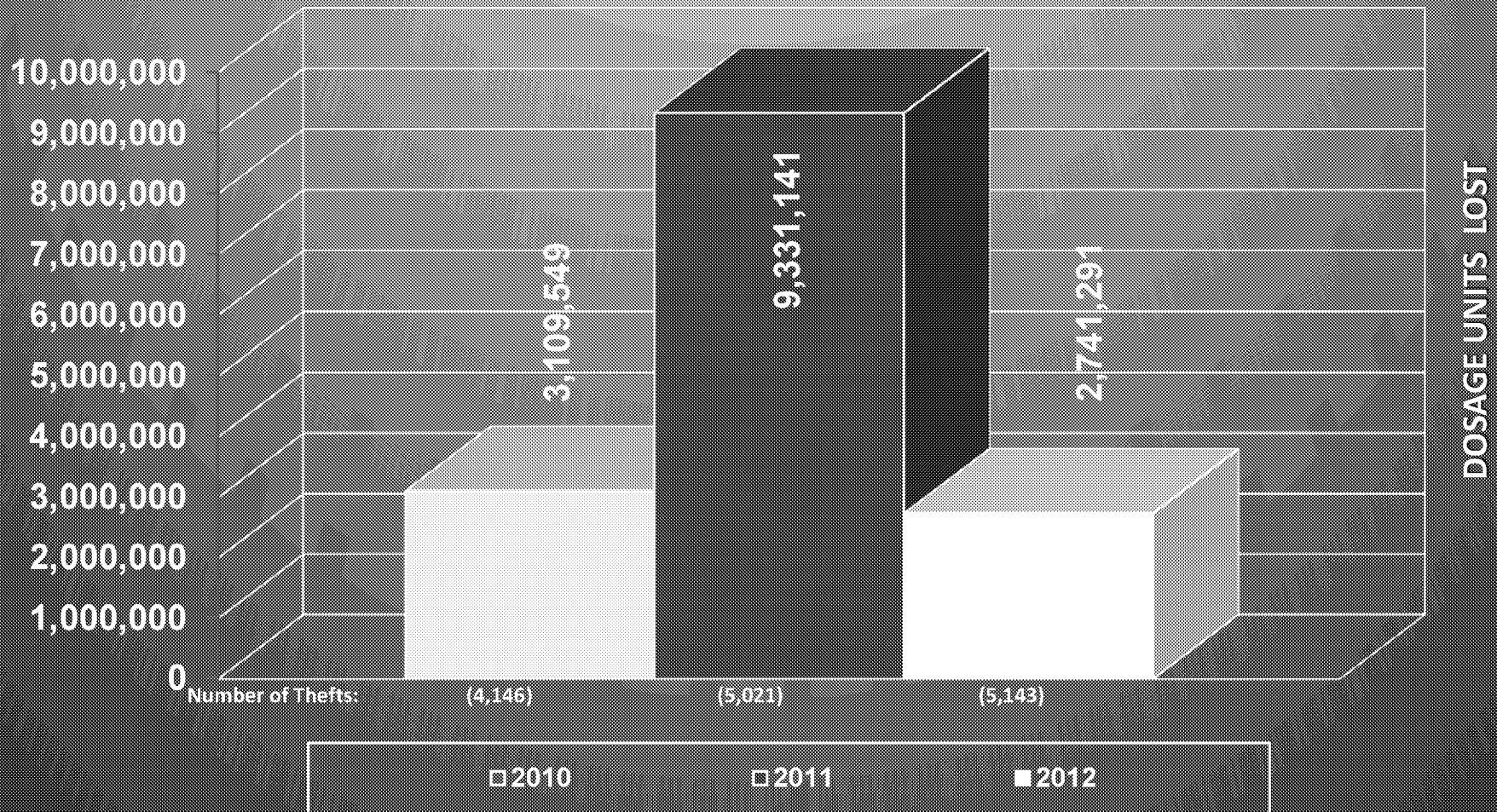


# Comparisons of Hydrocodone Reported Thefts



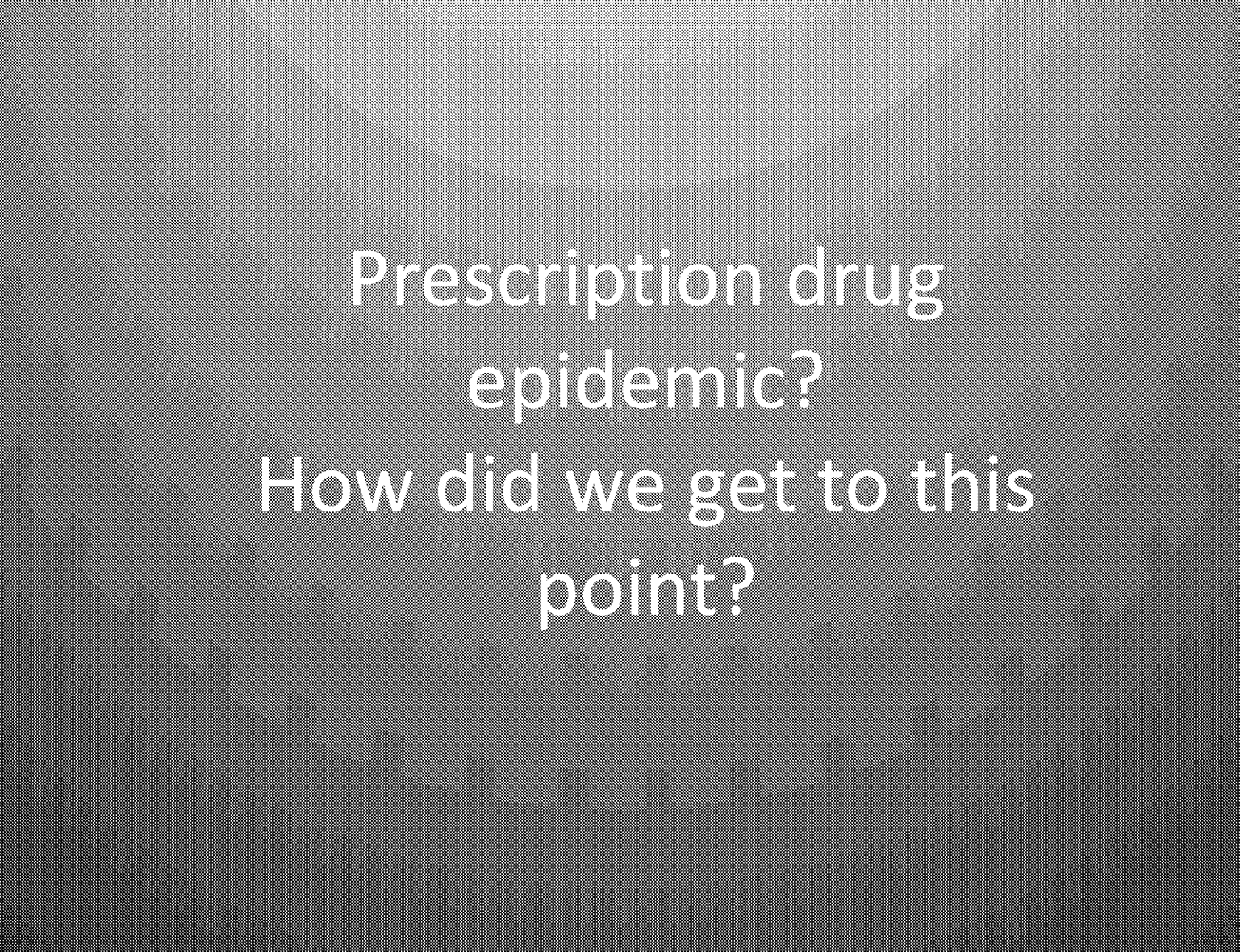
01/01/2012 – 12/31/2012

# Comparisons of Oxycodone Reported Thefts



01/01/2012 – 12/31/2012





Prescription drug  
epidemic?  
How did we get to this  
point?

# The 1960/70s/80s



Uppers - Dexedrine



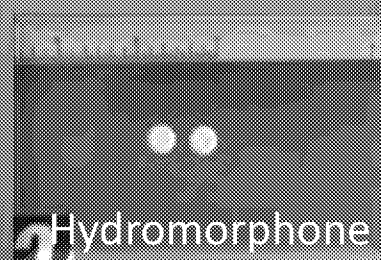
Bottle of Methaqualone tablets



"Ts and Blues"



Downers - Seconal



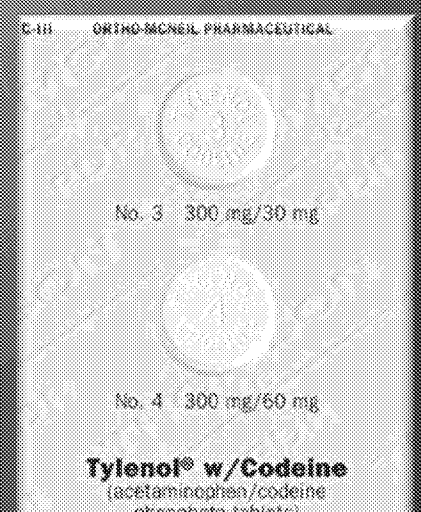
Hydromorphone



Meproamate



Oxycodone/APAP

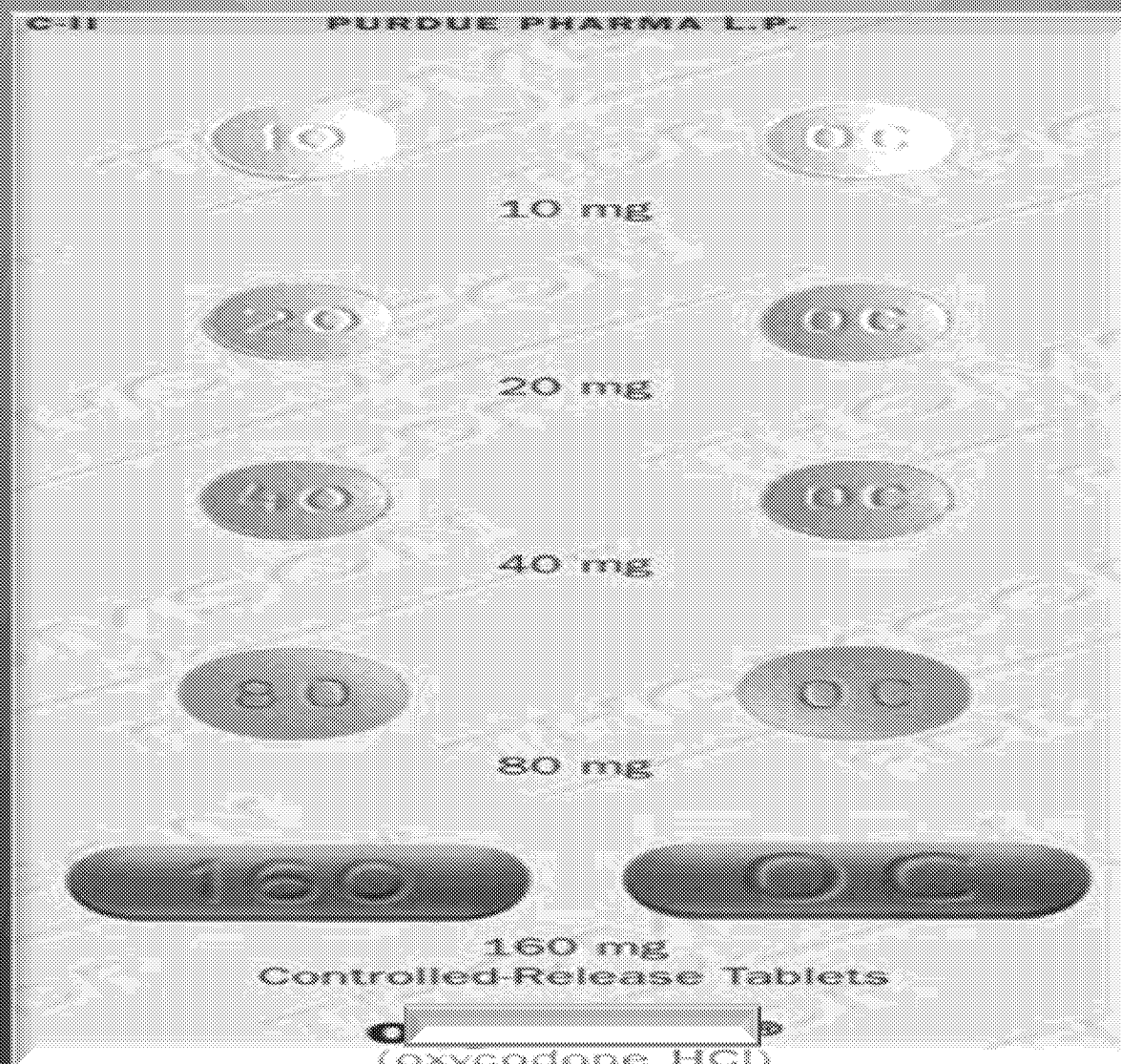


"Fours and Doors"



# The 1990s

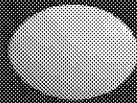
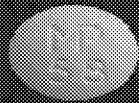
OxyContin



# Commonly Abused Controlled

## Pharmaceuticals

Carisoprodol

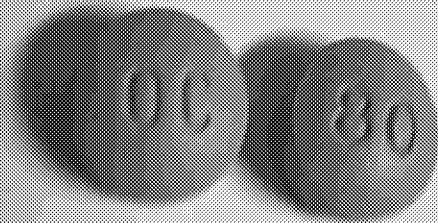


**CYCLOBENZAPRINE  
(FLEXERIL)**

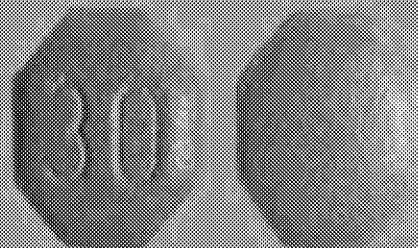
C-IV as of 1/11/2012



**Hydrocodone**



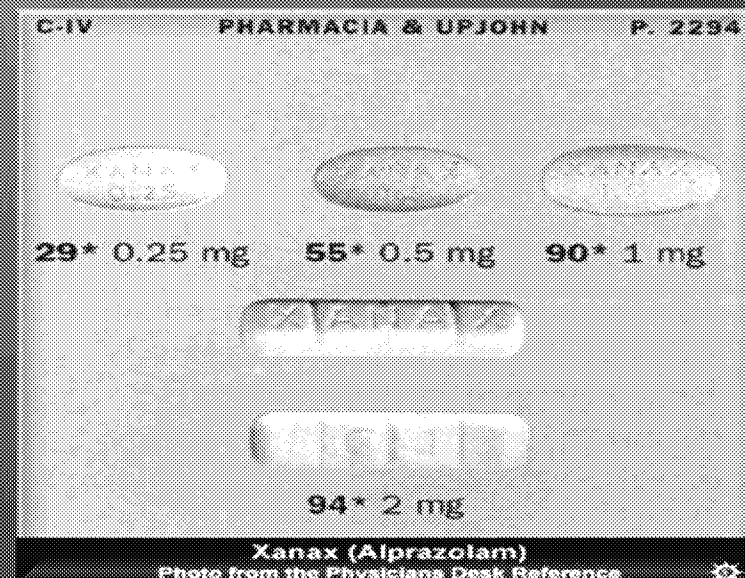
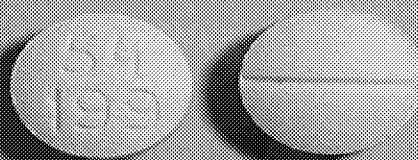
OxyContin 80mg



Oxymorphone



**Oxycodone 30 mg**

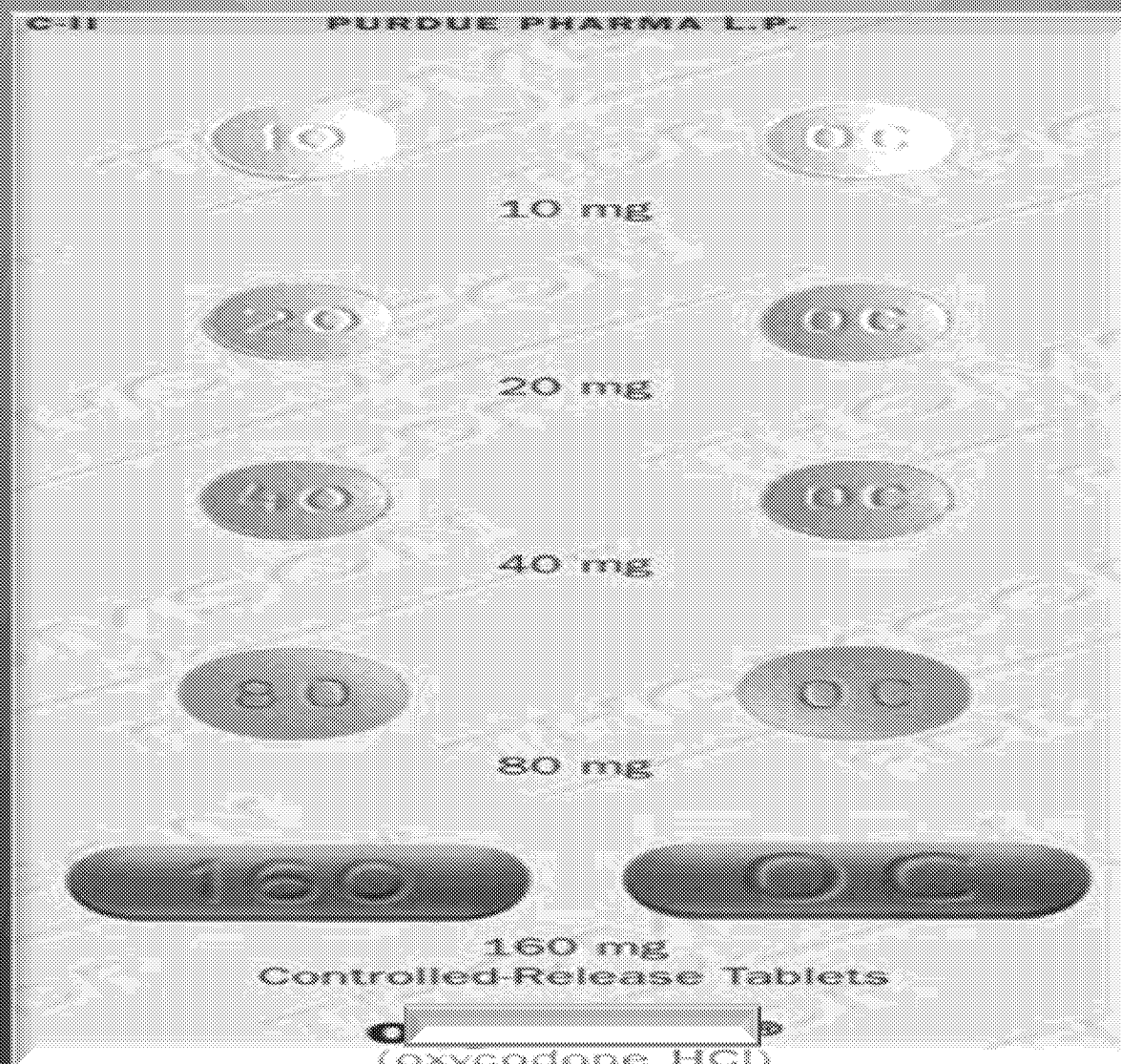


**Alprazolam**



# The 1990s

OxyContin



# Inadequate Pain Control



The Fifth Vital Sign?

Temperature

Heart Rate

BP

Respiration

Public release date: 17-Mar-2006

[ Print | E-mail | Share ] [ Close Window ]

Contact: Amy Jenkins

amy@jenkinspublicrelations.com

312-836-0613

American Academy of Pain Medicine

## Experts call for balance in addressing under treated pain and drug abuse

### *Healthcare decisions must remain in the hands of healthcare professionals for the sake of patients*

A balance must be struck between physicians' responsibility to treat chronic pain and the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) duty to combat drug abuse, according to a series of seven commentaries by national thoughtleaders published today in the February issue of Pain Medicine.

The commentaries explore the current state of the use of pain medicine from a variety of perspectives, with an emphasis on the tension between physicians treating legitimate pain and the DEA. Pain Medicine is the journal of the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM).

According to the American Pain Foundation, chronic pain affects more than 50 million Americans. People suffering from chronic pain may need pain medicine to lead normal lives, such as being able to work and to participate in family life. Many patients with chronic pain have lost access to appropriate medical care due to tension between regulatory/legislative bodies and the medical community.

The lead commentary describing current DEA policy on pain care with controlled substances was written by Howard A. Helt, MD, a pain and addiction medicine specialist who has collaborated with the DEA. AAPM President Scott M. Fishman, MD, presents the collision of the war on drugs with efforts to improve pain care. Jennifer Bolen, JD, Former Assistant US Attorney with the United States Department of Justice, makes a compelling case that current DEA policies are founded on erroneous and inappropriate positions. Edward Covington, MD, Steven Passik, PhD, and Ben A. Rich, JD, PhD, add additional dimensions to the current perceived state of imbalance, while Will Rowe, Executive Director of the American Pain Foundation, a patient advocacy organization, provides perspective on patient's rights.

### **Victories and Defeats in Pain Care**

Dr. Helt and others worked with the DEA to develop the August 2004 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Health Care Professionals and Law Enforcement Personnel, which the DEA subsequently disavowed causing "confusion and consternation" among physicians who treat pain.

"It is now apparent to me that the spirit of cooperation that existed between the DEA and the pain community to achieve the goal of balance has broken down. The DEA seems to have ignored the input and needs of the healthcare professionals and pain patients who actually prescribe, dispense and use controlled substances," Dr. Helt states in his commentary.

"It is essential that we resume dialogue between the DEA and healthcare professions for the benefit of our patients and society," continues Dr. Helt. "The DEA and the healthcare professionals treating pain both have an important job to do in ensuring those who need [controlled substances] for pain receive them while preventing misuse and diversion. Only through dialogue based on and mutual trust and respect can this balance be restored."

Other government initiatives have challenged the line between health policy and law enforcement. This includes Congress's empowerment of the DEA allowing the agency authority in reviewing new drugs, a role previously held only by the Food and Drug Administration, according to Dr. Fishman. On Nov. 4, 2005, Congress reversed itself and rescinded the DEA's new authority.

As healthcare's regulatory authority shifts from health agencies to law enforcement agencies, the DEA and Federal prosecutors have used the courts to bypass state medical boards when scrutinizing physician practices. Dr. Fishman says that the recently passed national law, National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act (NASPER), which institutes a national prescription monitoring program, may offer some steps forward, but it also carries the potential to impede optimal prescribing and could even perpetuate aberrant prescribing that may facilitate abuse. While this new law is presented to the public as a clinical tool to improve patient care and safety, "...profound inadequacies suggest that this law may be intended less as a clinical tool than as a physician mouse trap," Dr. Fishman states.

"Healthcare decisions, including those involving legitimate use of analgesics, must remain in the hands of healthcare professionals," comments Dr. Fishman. "The DEA should be required to work with health agencies and healthcare professionals in finding common ground and reaching the rational position of balance that is in the public's best interest...Healthcare oversight must remain within agencies whose primary responsibility is to improve public health...continue to insist that drug abuse can be curbed without undermining patients in pain and striving for such policies is in the best interest of society. The least we can do is to make sure that the casualties legitimately deserve relief."

### **Freedom to Care for Pain Patients Critical**

Reluctance to prescribe powerful pain medicine among the medical community for fear of retribution has led to the needless suffering of countless people in pain.

The Department of Justice must "stop the abuse and diversion of prescription medicines without harming access to these medicines for people affected by pain," states Will Rowe, Executive Director, American Pain Foundation. "The DEA's commitment to the pain community to pursue a balance between the war on drugs and the rights of pain patients, and also cite the more comprehensive command."

\*\*\*

### **About the American Academy of Pain Medicine**

Founded in 1983 as the American Academy of Algology, the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) has evolved as the primary organization for physicians practicing the specialty of Pain Medicine in grown, a defined body of knowledge and scope of practice have emerged, and today, Pain Medicine is recognized as a discrete specialty by the American Medical Association (AMA). AAPM is the only pain Delegates. The journal Pain Medicine is published six times a year by Blackwell Science, Inc. For more information, visit [www.painmed.org](http://www.painmed.org).

### **About the American Pain Foundation**

Founded in 1997, the American Pain Foundation is an independent nonprofit 501(c)3 organization serving people with pain through information, advocacy, and support. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people with pain, providing practical information, promoting research, and advocating to remove barriers and increase access to effective pain management. For more information, visit [www.painfoundation.org](http://www.painfoundation.org).



### **Risky Connection Blocked**

McAfee has blocked your PC from making a potentially risky connection.

About This Connection  
IP Address: 72.21.194.32  
Program: Internet Explorer

More ▾

☐ Do not show this alert again

OK